

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Conrad Gun Club

2. Type of Proposed Action: Re-roof and re-side clubhouse, add handicap and utility ramp, and install a portable toilet.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The Conrad Gun Club is leased from Pondera County, Montana. The tract of land is two and one half (2.5) acres located in the SW ¼, NE ¼, SW ¼ of Section 22, Township 28 North, Range 3 West. The property is approximately 300 feet square and lying in the southwest corner of the above described property.

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): The current clubhouse is an old school house built in the 1920s or 30s. The exterior paint and shingle roof have deteriorated badly and vandals have broken out all of the windows. However, the building is solid and just needs to be refinished. Additionally there is a need to make the building handicapped accessible and capable of storage for larger equipment items. Currently there are two out-houses which are also in bad shape and need replacement.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): Re-roof and reside the clubhouse with a metal roof and metal siding. Install a handicap ramp to the clubhouse to accommodate both handicapped participants and large equipment requiring inside storage in the building. The objective is to provide increased opportunity to participate in safe organized and efficient operation with improved meeting, administrative and storage space. This will ultimately result in better training or educational environment for the club, other user organizations, law enforcement, hunter education, and any other additional public uses.

7. Map:



Figure 1 – Conrad Gun Club Area Map



Figure 2 - Conrad Gun Club

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

Range is approximately 2.5 acres, but improvements are limited to a much smaller area with proposed range enhancements.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The area affected is the existing Conrad Gun Club which has been in place for many years and is located just southwest of Conrad, MT and south of the Conrad Airport. Range is built upon former agricultural land and is surrounded on three sides by cropland. The south side is Granite Road and to the immediate south on granite road is more cropland. The Conrad Airport is located north of the club with cropland between.

10. Description of Project: Replace the existing roof with colored metal roof and

reside the building with metal siding. Enlarge the main entrance to accommodate a handicap and equipment ramp. Purchase and install a portable toilet. See paragraph 2 for outline of proposed actions and paragraph 5 for the need for the action.

In Accordance With (IAW) contracts agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
N/A	

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$3,204.72

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: The range is open to the public and the Conrad Gun Club does not have membership dues. League shooting is made up of team members from Conrad, Valier, Dupuyer, Choteau, and Shelby, Montana. User organizations include: Conrad Gun Club, Pondera Sheriff's Department, Hunter Education, 4-H Club, FFA Club, and the Boy Scouts. Additionally the Conrad Police Department has shown interested in using the range for shotgun training.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: Proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

John P. Shevlin , 2 S. Idaho, Conrad, MT 59425
(406) 278-7043

16. Other Pertinent Information: The club has gone to exclusively using White Flyer biodegradable targets.

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 25, 2007

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist - The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		#4
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

4. The site is adjacent to and surrounded on three sides by agricultural land.

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the standards of safety for the range participants and the public at large.

7. Range will provide year round controlled access and fulfils a need for a range to accommodate law enforcement training, hunter education, and public shooting.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) Re-roof and reside the existing clubhouse, add a handicapped ramp access and install a portable toilet.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** area will remain as an active trap range without improvements.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, A (Proposed Alternative) and B (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (A) nor the no action alternative (B) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of alternatives **A** to provide a renovated and improved Clubhouse with handicapped access and a new portable toilet. Additionally the range is available to the general public, community organizations, law enforcement, shotgun training, and hunter education.
- The No Action Alternative would be not modernize and renovate the existing clubhouse, not provide handicapped access to the clubhouse, not to replace the outhouses and to continue on with present shooting activities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities include trap ranges without the proposed improvements to the operations. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

John P. Shevlin, 2 S. Idaho, Conrad, MT 59425

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties leased from Pondera County by the Conrad Gun Club. The low impact activities proposed and the increased recreational opportunity indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The long history of the Conrad Gun Club providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the modernization and expansion proposals outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN

Ecological Assessments

Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: August 25, 2007

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

None